

# LOOKS DISMAL FOR MAGNATES, NOW THAT STARS HAVE STARTED TO ANNOUNCE RETIREMENTS

## NOW IS SEASON FOR STARS TO ANNOUNCE FAREWELL TO GAME

Del Pratt Was First to Say Business Demanded His Attention and He Was Followed by Tilly Walker. Other Winter Retirements Expected

By ROBERT W. MAXWELL  
Sports Editor Evening Public Ledger

WITH the positive assurance that baseball will be played next year, the athletes of the diamond are returning to their old-time form. Already temperamental stars are issuing holdout bulletins, stating positively it will be impossible to quit their jobs to play baseball again. A few probably will give up the game, but a great majority will sit tight until salary differences are adjusted and then go out to whale the tar out of the ball for a .300 average or better. It's the old, old, old story.

The first player to announce his retirement is Del Pratt, the second-macker of the New York Yankees. Del opines he will stick to the old home-stand in Lebanon, Pa., and stick to his position with the Bethlehem Steel Corporation. He assures us he is not camouflaging with a view of prying more coin out of the New York management, and says he is sincere in his intention to continue as a real laborer. Tilly Walker, of the Macks, also has announced his retirement.

"I am up here with the steelmakers," Pratt wrote a friend in St. Louis recently, "and if things continue to pick up I think my days as a ball player are over. It's rather hard to say such a thing after baseball has put me on my feet, but you know old opportunity knocks only once, and I hear him knocking now. I am a real laboring man and working my head off—but am getting somewhere with it."

Pratt probably has a good job, but it will be an exceptional one to keep him out of the game. A ball player usually makes more in six months at short hours on the ball field than he gets in two years working ten hours a day. Also, the lure of the diamond and the plaudits of the multitude are hard to overcome; so these retirement stories must be accepted at their face value until the season starts. Then the holdouts can be considered seriously.

**WORKING with Pratt at Lebanon are Sam Agnew, George Hale, Harry Covelesky, Rogers Hornsby, Babe Ruth and Eddie Murphy.** None of these players has expressed a desire to continue as laborers and turn his back on baseball. Perhaps they are waiting to see how Pratt's announcement goes over.

**Georgia Tech Should Play Penn and Pitt in 1919**  
GEORGIA TECH is making plans for the 1919 football season and desires games with the University of Pennsylvania and Pitt. The Southerners are anxious to show the folks up North what kind of a team they really have under normal conditions and make up for the defeat handed them by Warner's eleven this fall. Tech is not offering any alibis for the 32 to 0 trimming in the biggest game of the year. Coach Heisman and his players admit Pitt had the better team, but they want another chance in a return game.

Both Pitt and Penn should put the Georgia team on their schedules. True, it will be a hard game, but the public is anxious to see it. Tech had a new team last fall, the players were not acquainted with the style of play, yet they sacrificed their standing in the football world and the reputation they had gained after years of hard work to travel to Pittsburgh and play a charity game for the benefit of the war work fund. It was a patriotic act and should be rewarded. Georgia Tech should be given recognition next year.

Charles W. Outlaw, Atlanta's most famous booster and warm friend of Coach Heisman and the Tech football team, dropped into the office the other day to ask why Georgia Tech should not be placed on the schedules of Penn and Pitt next year.

"Georgia Tech deserves a return game," said Mr. Outlaw, "and will play in Atlanta, New York, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh or any city to be selected. Folks down in Atlanta feel that Tech can make a better showing, for the defeat at the hands of Pitt still has them stunned. They cannot reconcile themselves to the 22 to 0 score and every one is howling for Panther meat. We had nine freshmen on the team last season, but you must remember we have offered no alibis. We were beaten by a better team, but I believe we can win next year when the old stars come back."

"Strupper, Phillips, Judy Harlan and Dan Winchell will be in the 1919 line-up, and when those boys get going something will happen. I have seen them in action and they are wonders. Now with a real Southern team in the field, why shouldn't the big colleges recognize us? We would like to play in Atlanta, where an enormous crowd would turn out; but any other city will do just as well. What we want is the game. We don't care where it is played."

**"THE football field would not be large enough to hold the crowd in Atlanta, for people would come from all parts of Georgia, the Carolinas and other southern States. If we play in Philadelphia or Pittsburgh we will have a special train to the game. We will make every effort to schedule contests up North next year, and I believe we should be recognized."**

**Philadelphia Jack O'Brien, the Versatile Actor**  
THERE are many stories of the prize ring and the heroes of the past, but it took Bill Phelon, of Cincinnati, to dig up one of the most interesting ones from a Philadelphia viewpoint. Bill recently dashed off a narrative about our own Philadelphia Jawn O'Brien in the heyday of his career, and Jawn is pictured as he looked to out-of-town reporters when he was traveling from coast to coast. Phelon was a reporter in Chicago at the time and his yarn is as follows:

"Jack O'Brien, as a pugilist, was unique and individual. There never was one quite like him—there never can be one again. Mr. O'Brien was the best actor that ever graced a fistie role—he played to 'type' and 'character' at all times and he dressed the part to suit all customers. John L. Sullivan was always gruff and brusque. Jim Corbett was always polite and affable. Jack O'Brien was whatever the exigencies of the moment, as he thought, demanded him to be, and never was there any other fighter who had the skill, the nerve and the technique of the O'Brien impersonations.

"Years ago, O'Brien having arrived in my city, I decided to pay him a friendly call. We had been friends since he was yelling 'Fl-ish' upon a wagon—that let that go. More credit to Jack O'Brien for the way he rose and the polish that he gained. So I called upon O'Brien. With me he was easy, jovial; he told of his battles, of his legal studies and his plunges in real estate. Just one old pal to another; nothing assumed, nothing theatrical or spectacular. His room was the room of any man who travels much and there were no special decorations or settings.

"The phone rang, and we learned that a certain fighter, of the rough, untutored school, was in the lobby. Tell him to come up in ten minutes," said O'Brien, and, like a flash, began dressing the part and setting the stage. He tossed off his lounging robe and drew on a somewhat frayed and dirtied sweater. He hung a set of boxing gloves from the chandelier. He draped some Police Gazette and sporting pages on the table and set a picture of John L. Sullivan on the mantel.

**"AN OPENED grip gave a view of a punching bag and some boxing tops. All these things arranged, Jack rumbled his hair and waited for the call.**

**Appears in Role of Rapid-Change Artist**  
WHEN the fighter arrived, a tough, tousel, untidy pugilist, little removed from the class of pork-and-beaners received him. O'Brien's language matched. He talked in tones and terms of the saloon and boxing platform. He made that fighter thoroughly at home; he met him on his own ground, and when the fighter left he went to carry the glad tidings that O'Brien was a regular fellow, not a bit swelled, just a tough old scrapper that had come to the top because he had the goods.

"O'Brien laughed as the door closed behind the boxer, but before the laugh was over the phone rang again. Downstairs was waiting a young woman from a newspaper, who wished to interview the famous Mr. O'Brien. With the speed of a cat O'Brien rearranged the stage. Off went the sweater, on went an aesthetic artist's jacket of velvet with a rolling collar. The hair was waved back in romantic fashion. Away went the gloves, the Police Gazette, the picture of John L. Sullivan. Shakespeare, Tolstoy and Browning were arrayed upon the table and a picture of Swami Vivekananda, the Indian Yogi, replaced that of John L.

"The young lady appeared—and a drawing, soft-voiced O'Brien, eyes rolling upward, language dripping with many-syllabled words, received her. For ten minutes he told that girl about his dreams, his aspirations, his ambitions to shine among men of the higher culture—and she staggered away, overpowered by the O'Brien eloquence!

"I left just as O'Brien, draped in a pepper-and-salt business suit, was receiving two real estate men. I thought I had had sufficient for a single day."

## WHEN A FELLER NEEDS A FRIEND



## Benny Leonard Meets White Next Month, Tendler Ready for Battle With Hammer



JOE BURMAN

### BURMAN BEATS FRANK CONWAY IN FAST FIGHT

**Bantams Give Brilliant Exhibition at National—Bartfield Wins Over Loughlin**

One of the most entertaining bouts witnessed here in some time was staged as part of the double wind-up at the National A. A. Saturday night. Joe Burman, the sensational Chicago boy, proved just a little too clever for the rugged Frankie Conway. Few expected the little Conway to linger the limit, but he crossed every one by giving Burman the hardest fight he has had here this season.

Aided by height and reach, Burman jabbed well and crossed with effect. His punches were the harder and cleaner, but in the clinches he suffered from Conway's overhand swings to the head. Burman, finding that it was useless to box his clever opponent, resorted to rushing tactics and often forced Burman to break for protection. The battle was a speedy and a satisfactory one.

The plan, according to Time, is to purchase the St. Paul and Minneapolis clubs and switch the franchise to Chicago and Omaha. This would make an ideal circuit, according to the Milwaukee magnate.

**MURPHY AFTER FRANCHISE**  
Former Cub Owner Wants A. A. in Chicago

Milwaukee, Dec. 15.—Charles Webb Murphy, former owner of the Cubs, has made a formal application for a franchise in the American Association, according to an announcement by Owner Time, of the Brewers.

Murphy, it is said, is willing to pay \$75,000 for a club in Hickey's league, and in the event of his landing the franchise, will put a team in the old Cub park on the west side of Chicago.

### Lightweight Champion Plans Active Campaign. Local Southpaw Respects Rugged Western Boy

CLASH HERE TONIGHT

By JAMES S. CAROLAN

NOW that the war game has run its length, Benny Leonard plans to start an active campaign and give all the contenders and persistent challengers a chance for a smash at his crown. Benny doubtless will be seen here before many weeks have passed against a worthy boy. Then he expects to open up against the big game.

His first match of importance is expected to be staged in Milwaukee next month against Charley White, of Chicago. The western southpaw virtually is the only lightweight of importance who has not exchanged punches with the champion.

Twice Leonard was scheduled to oppose White in the past, but each time something intervened to force a postponement. The match now looks like a certainty. White is a veteran, a crafty boy and a good puncher.

One of the Quaker City's prominent athletic entertainers was caught in the act of doing some real work in preparation for his engagement with Ever Hammer at the Olympia tonight. A surprise visit to Jack O'Brien's gymnasium Saturday afternoon revealed Lew Tendler, the southpaw sensation, busily engaged in pounding the sand out of the ancient punching bag once used by Kid McCoy.

For nearly an hour Lew pummeled the helpless conditioner of ring artists. His left dented and damaged the heavy punching bag. He perspired and labored. He couldn't have trained more faithfully than if preparing for a title fray.

"Why so much work for such an easy match, Lew?" a friend asked the perspiring southpaw.

"Nothing Easy. 'What do you mean, soft match?' quickly answered the much-anvored ring entertainer. 'I don't know where they get the idea that this Hammer fellow is easy. I saw him work once and I know he is one tough boy. I can think of a lot of so-called world beaters that he would sooner take on than this Hammer guy.'

Hammer is not very well known here. He gained much publicity in his only meeting with Champion Benny Leonard scheduled fifteen rounds in Denver more than a year ago.

He took everything Leonard dealt out and the accurate placement of a right to the jaw near the end of the twelfth round forced him to say farewell before the regulation limit.



EVER HAMMER

### BOXING LAUDED AT NATIONALS' VICTORY DINNER

Promoters Host to Large Party of Sportsmen at Unique "Peace Party"

The first boxing "Victory Dinner" was held last night. The owners of the National Athletic Association were host to a party of thirty-two sporting men, including the scrappy and a few prominent statesmen, at Signor F. A. Giannini's Italian headquarters. There the boxing game came in for its share of boasting and every one present took his turn in lauding the ring sport.

There was only one interruption. That was by Signor Giannini when he took the occasion to place General Diaz's name before the gathering and to ask what was wrong with him as a real fighter.

There were many SPARKLING speeches. Words were like liquid and flowed freely. For five hours the gathering lingered about the festive board, and between impromptu speeches and operatic selections by Signor Giannini and Jim McCool the guests had no occasion to grow dull.

Spence, Tech Star, Killed

Thomasville, Ga., Dec. 15.—Thomas Spence Jr., formerly fullback on the Georgia Tech football team, was killed in an airplane accident in France on November 27, according to a cablegram received here by his father.

## TENNIS SOLONS TO BOOM SPORT

To Develop Strong Team to Compete for Davis Cup in 1920

MANY BIG TOURNAMENTS

New York, Dec. 15.—Every energy on the part of the members of the executive committee of the United States National Lawn Tennis Association is devoted to establishing the national championship tournament of 1919 as the greatest in the history of the American game.

There is a reason. Literally the country is to be combed, and the process has already begun, to get out players of top ten ability who may hitherto have escaped notice. They are needed as recruits for the little army of the United States that will make its assault upon the citadel of the Davis cup.

This condition of affairs was revealed at the session of the executive committee held at the Waldorf-Astoria, which completed its deliberations Saturday. It is the intention of the committee to relax the eligibility qualifications for entrance to the national championship tournament in order to bring forth next season the greatest and most representative field that has ever competed for the title.

To Select Team

From among the star competitors will be selected the team that will attempt the return of the classic Davis International Challenge Cup during the season of 1920.

The following resolution was adopted by the officials present at the meeting that closed Saturday:

"Whereas, The world war has ended; and

"Whereas, There has been no international competition in tennis since 1914; and

"Whereas, The resumption of such contests will help cement international friendships; therefore,

"Be it resolved, That the annual meeting of the U. S. N. L. T. A. empower its executive committee to take such steps as may be necessary to re-establish the Davis Cup contests, the next one to be held in 1920.

"Be it further resolved, That the executive committee be hereby empowered to defray the expenses of such contests from the treasury of the U. S. N. L. T. A."

No Costly Prizes

Major George T. Adee, who presided at the meeting, was interested in a report made by Major Robert D. Wrenn, former president of the national association, as to discouraging the offering of costly prizes. Major Wrenn pointed out that standardized medals were favored to replace the former costly trophies, as many of the clubs had had to make sacrifices of a financial nature due to the war. Membership lists had dwindled and the income had been curtailed. He offered the following resolution, which was adopted:

"Whereas, One of the great expenses of holding tournaments has been due to the cost of prizes, and

"Whereas, Players have come to regard certificates as highly as more expensive trophies, now,

"Be it resolved, That the U. S. N. L. T. A. recommend to its member clubs that no prizes of intrinsic value be given to those used in 1917-1918 be awarded, or standard medals authorized by the U. S. N. L. T. A."

### REAMERS TRIUMPH

Defeat Hog Island Riveters in Benefit Match

Calling themselves the Reamers vs. the Riveters, Hog Island's football squad staged a post-season game yesterday afternoon on their athletic field at Ninety-fourth street, and the Pittsburgh Reamers winning by a score of 13 to 12.

The proceeds of the game were turned over to Norton, one of their star players, in a recent game against Peshawar A. Broke his leg.

Name Reds' Manager January 4

Cincinnati, Dec. 15.—The question of securing a manager for the Reds will come up at a meeting of the directors and stockholders of the Cincinnati club on January 4," said President August Herrmann upon his arrival in Cincinnati yesterday.

Henigan Sets New Record

New York, Dec. 15.—Jimmie Henigan, of Port Stocum, the former New England Association cross-country runner, established a new record for the Brooklyn A. A. two and three-quarter-mile course played in a recent game against Peshawar A. Broke his leg.

## NO PENN ROWING PLANS

Crews May Be Placed on Informal Basis

Edward R. Bushnell, Penn's graduate manager, this afternoon denied that any definite plans had been made for the Quaker rowing season. He said that there would be a meeting to discuss arrangements for the crews within a short time.

Mr. Bushnell also added that, in view of the fact that the athletic year so far has yielded such a small financial return, all sports not self-supporting would be cut to the limit. Rowing, a sport which yields no receipts, cost the university \$7,000 last spring.

Joe Wright, the rowing coach, is at his home in Canada. His contract for another year to run, but a war clause is contained in it.

## COACH RICE STILL FREE

Ex-Columbia Rowing Tutor Denies Signing With Cornell

New York, Dec. 15.—Jim Rice, long coach of the Columbia crew, who resigned last summer, last night denied that he had signed an agreement with Cornell or any other college as rowing coach.

He was greatly excited on hearing that a statement had gone out from some unreliable source that he had agreed to coach the Cornell crew next year.

JOHN COOMBS  
After discussing in detail your proposition, have decided to accept same, feeling that I should make a sacrifice to remain in the profession that has been so good to me. Write, stating when you wish me to meet you.

President Baker's reply follows:  
Telegram received. Am much pleased with your acceptance of my proposition. Know you will receive a cordial reception in Philadelphia. Will write you tomorrow. Best wishes to Mrs. Coombs and yourself for a Merry Christmas.  
WILLIAM F. BAKER



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